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[*From the North American Review, for October, 1835.*]

LIFE OF JEHUDI ASHMUN,

Late Colonial Agent in Liberia, with an Appendix, containing extracts from his Journal and other writings; and a brief Sketch of the Life of the Rev. Lott Carey.
By RALPH RANDOLPH GURLEY. Washington. 1835.

THIS volume is both a just and generous tribute to the memory of a good man;—one of the martyr school,—whose names “smell sweet, and blossom in the dust.” The capacities of his character were such, that had he lived in any age or country, their energy must have hurried them into development, and distinction too, as inevitably as the waters flow to the sea. They did so as it was; regardless indeed, apparently, of their destiny for a while, and wandering here and there by “many a winding bout,” through subterranean realms of shade; yet true to themselves, through all things,—purified by the filtration they encountered,—accumulated,—accelerated,—and so struggling, and still struggling, onward and farther on, till finally the day-light gleamed, and they poured themselves forth to the sunshine, in the rejoicing rush of the cataract. Obscurity, penury, persecution, disaster, passion,—what a history of them is recorded here; and how vainly do they, each and every one and all together, contend with the unconquerable will!

These things, we know, have become comparatively common in our times,—almost common-place. It is emphatically the adventurous age we live in. The Argonautic was not half as much so. The Roman was tame in comparison. The Chivalrous was sluggishness itself. The spirit which belonged then to individuals, belongs now to the era. That which was little above the physical propensities,—the blind impulse of ambition or acquisitiveness, or both,—and was busied almost exclusively, of course, like the strong man’s phrenzy, with wreaking its vengeance and wasting its vigor in sightless striv-

ings to pull down the pillars of the great sanctuary of society, even over its own head,—that spirit (if it can be called such) is subdued at length in some good degree into subordination to the intellectual, social, spiritual instincts of man. New avenues are opened to his energies in these departments; the world is no more divided between a camp and a charnel-house. Mind, instead of force, has become the arbiter of nations; mind is the medium of influence, the measure of advancement, the minister to the gratification of those old longings of humanity, which, though never to be reasoned out of it, may yet be, and have been, a thousand times refined. A diligent minister it is,—indefatigable indeed, but willing and discretionary,—admitted to the privilege of advising and to the participation of results,—a companion and counsellor, more than a slave.

The spiritual instincts, strictly, are included in the catalogue of resuscitated powers. The manifestations of these are in their nature noiseless, and void of ostentation; and their achievements are the same; but they are none the less real, nor the less considerable, for the want of those qualities which most attract the admiring gaze of men. The missionary spirit, alone, were sufficient to characterize the age. It is the missionary age, not less than the mechanical, or the mental, as those have severally described it who chanced to be engrossed by its changing aspects; it is the age of each and all,—of glorious exertions, and great and splendid victories in all,—the age, as we began with saying, of adventure. The application of steam to purposes of navigation was an adventure. The railroad was another. Every discovery of science, and every application of it in art and in practice, were others. So was the American Revolution; and so was the French. So was the Temperance Reform; and so was the Bible Society; and the whole organization of Public Benevolence;—and the scheme of the Education of the People;—all of them, and myriads more, harmonious issues of that stupendous source of sublime events and experiments,—the mind of man,—fairly awakened at last from its slumbers, and, as a giant refreshed, relieving its panting energies with the luxury of *adventure*.

The life of Ashmun lay in an important division of this great field of enterprise. He devoted himself early to the cause of African Colonization,—itself one of the noblest demonstrations of the enlightened intellect, and courageous but considerate enthusiasm of the times. At a critical period in its history, he became its ruling director; and for years afterwards,—the pregnant years of the formation of its first character,—the responsibility of its whole regulation depended upon him alone, as the Colonial Agent of the Institution. Nor is it too much to say, that the absolute preservation of the Colony, and its present existence, may be ascribed to his incredible exertions of an equally incredible energy; united, indeed, with an extraordinary fitness in other respects, for the place he was found in, at the momentous juncture referred to. Had the Colony utterly failed, and especially under the pressure of those gloomy circumstances, which it will be seen that Ashmun so effectually resisted and repelled, the shock, doubtless, would have proved fatal to the Association itself, and proportionately discouraging to the efforts of the friends of the subjects of that chari-

ty, as well as to that unfortunate people themselves, in every similar and subsequent department of benevolent labor, at home and abroad. The scheme of Colonization, indeed,—any more than the design of meliorating the condition of that people at large,—could not have been destroyed. That scheme was, and is, and will be, indestructible. It might have been, and probably would have been, as transplanters say, killed to the ground;—but killed to the root, it could not, and cannot be. Its principles are in the circumstances of the population of this country, essentially vital, not to say indispensable; and the application of them in experiment, however it might be or may be postponed or embarrassed, can no more be prevented, sooner or later, in one or another modification, than can the progress of that population, and the growth of the country which contains it.

Ashmun was born in the little town of Champlain, New York, in 1794; and was the third child, among ten, of a respectable yeoman, who settled in that section, at a period when it was a mere wilderness. He was designed for the farm, but a remarkable love of books, which he displayed in early life, decided his parents to give him a liberal education, and he commenced preparing for college at the age of fourteen. Soon afterwards, becoming deeply religious, he determined on adopting the clerical profession; and the firmness with which he adhered to this resolution, alone, unadvised, and tempted as he was,—tempted by his poverty and his ambition,—is a striking evidence of the early maturity of that moral character, which subsequently proved the security, and sustained the welfare of all that depended on his official management and personal exertion. Enticements seemed to assail him, indeed, with the express determination, so to speak, of turning him aside, or driving him back from his purpose;—sallying out upon him as he trudged along,—

“remote, unfriended, melancholy, slow—”

something after the fashion of the abusive apparitions in the Arabian Tale, who so doggedly beset the way of the pilgrim along the hill-side, in his search for the singing-tree. For example, three years after commencing his preparatory course, in which no doubt he was greatly delayed by his situation, we find him in the town of Troy, unacquainted with any person there, without recommendation to any body, and with a few shillings only in his pocket, casting about for some employment which might procure him the means of farther pursuing his studies. In numerous applications he was unsuccessful.—At length, he fell in with an attorney, principal justice also of the village, who promised him the aid he needed, which was in fact but a *pou-sto*, in the business of “assisting him” a little, as the young man describes it “among his papers.” This gentleman was pleased with him, and he offered to give him a complete course of legal tuition, and maintain him meanwhile in the bargain, on the same easy terms which already left him the greater portion of his time for the prosecution of favorite pursuits. The justice, it seems too, “had a very small family, a growing fortune, and treats me with the greatest respect.”*—

* Memoir, p. 23.

Probably, however, the advantages thus tendered him were conditional, and required the abandonment of his first designs. We find him, therefore, making farther inquiries of a person in Vermont, and proposing to engage in some business, "the avails of which, *at the end of three more years* would assist him in acquiring an education." The resolution was clearly inflexible, and yet it is not till a year later that we find him in Middlebury College. Here he sustained himself, as so many others of the distinguished alumni of New England Colleges have done, by teaching a school as much of the time as the college regulations would permit, but pursuing his studies all the while with an unwearied zeal, which, while it essentially injured his health, soon obtained him a reputation and rank with the first scholars of the Institution to which he belonged. Thus will the invincible spirit of an iron resolution triumph over every obstacle. He says of himself in his Journal, and that justly, speaking of his residence at Troy. "I believe that at that time no offer of emolument, or of earthly distinction, would have seduced me from my purpose."—Such men are the "*tenaces propositi*." Ashmun's proposition had been long before elected. He yearned for a sphere of spiritual usefulness, wider than the confinement of even any profession would allow him. He felt instinctively that such would be his true element in society; and from the hour his heart was bent upon that end, nothing but death could stand in the way of its attainment. Circumstances, indeed, did stand, like lions "in the way." Every thing opposed him. But what are circumstances to him who looks them fearlessly in the eye? The royal animal will not bear that scrutiny of a human soul; and all but unchangeable nature itself,—which still must submit to be harnessed and trained, like a beast of burthen,—quails, and crouches howling away, under the same insufferable terror.

The young man's incessant application, as might have been expected, soon compelled him to abandon his studies altogether for a time, and to travel through Connecticut and other sections, for the restoration of his health. Doubtless, though he apparently succeeded in its recovery to a tolerable extent, it was but just tolerable after all; and there can be no reasonable question that at this period were established the incurable sources of that irritability and feebleness, which covered so much of his after life with gloom, and so much thwarted his most anxious desires, and finally, in the prime of his days, forced him to yield to the trials of a foreign climate and a laborious station,—after struggling for years with both,—through mere exhaustion of this early enfeebled frame. How filled are the annals of American Colleges with cases of this kind! What hundreds of young men, with bodies and minds like those which Ashmun possessed at the outset, and with such character too,—such energy, ambition, zeal to be useful,—have thus broken themselves down in the fine flower of a noble vigor, that, duly husbanded, might have made them the blessing and praise of the world. Who can estimate the loss to literature, liberty, religion;—the loss from disease, and from death, alike,—the loss in what has been done, and in what has not been, and in how it has been done;—to say nothing of the misery endured, and the imbecility entailed, and of the ultimate incalculable influences of all, including the con-

tagion of evil example, on the generations yet to follow us! How extraordinary that persons of sane mind in other respects, can labor under the horrible hallucination, that such a course will prepare them for usefulness; and that like the poor Hindoo, who would fain flatter himself that he honors his Maker by swinging his body in hooks, these miserable victims, even in the daily labor of their difficult suicide, deem themselves to be accomplishing the great ends of their existence! Ashmun was so reduced in Connecticut, it seems, as almost to despair of ever returning to his friends;* and yet his exertions, as Mr. Gurley states, in several towns, were "frequent and great." No wonder that "hundreds felt his appeals as those of a dying man." He was dying. The whole of the residue of his life was a lingering torture. He struggled nobly, and accomplished wonders,—enough to prove the great things of which he was capable,—but the mind had battled the body till it was finally worn out and beaten down, and nothing remained for it, but to be dragged and dragged behind the chariot wheels, as it were, of its *enemy*, till its enemy itself became exhausted. We were prepared to expect from Mr. Gurley, an appropriate comment on this portion of the career of his subject, whose memory we need not say, none can hold in higher estimation than we do; but the evil, enormous as it is, has become too common to be relieved. Our professions are getting to be "encumbered" with invalids, as Napoleon once wrote to his obedient legislature, that his hospitals were,—at the same time, demanding a fresh body of "*men,—grown-men*,"—for it was the *boys* that drooped and fell by the roadside. The Biography, we say, might have saved us this digression. The calamity has become national and alarming, till it assumes almost the hue of a crime. We *feel* that it demands at least a rebuke.

Ashmun, however, was destined yet to live many years; and his *vacation*, in spite of his injudicious use of a part of it, had the effect to restore his vigor in some good degree. He returned to College, and remained there some time longer. Pecuniary embarrassments then encountered him again, and he became a student at the Vermont University, where he was graduated with distinction, in the year 1816. As to the episode which follows next, in relation to the lady whom he afterwards married, we shall enter no criticism; we hasten to a more agreeable part of the history. He engaged as principal, at the early age of twenty, of a newly instituted seminary, at Brewer, in Maine,—since become flourishing at Bangor,—designed to promote Theological Education; and here he labored, as well in his official capacity, as in his private studies, and his missionary expeditions besides, with an amazing energy and a corresponding success, which make us the more regret that occasion should have existed for the following sharp and sensible advice, addressed to him by a venerable clergyman, a trustee of the school:—"You have preached twenty-five times in two months, that is thirteen (we should have said twenty-five) times more than you ought to have preached. You do right to tell me your faults, and I shall do right in reproving you. Hear me

*Memoir, p. 24.

then. If you will persist in preaching at such a rate, your race will be short. You ought to begin as you can hold out. Preach only when duty calls, and attend more to a regular course of studies. Count me not your enemy, because I thus write. It is not the language of hatred, but of love." We thank Mr. Gurley for inserting these golden rules, even in a note. "Begin as you can hold out." It should be marked in marble on the walls of every room where the mind's martyrs burn themselves out by the slow fire of the study. We want a new Temperance Reform,—not for those who *drink too much*, but for those who *think too little*.

For the history of Mr. Ashmun's residence in Maine, of the incidents connected with his marriage, and his various exertions at Baltimore, till he became editor of the Theological Repository, at the seat of government, we must refer the reader to the Memoir. At this period we begin to perceive the distinct tendency of his thoughts to the subject of African Colonization. The Review which he published of the second annual report of the Society, and in which he maintained the position that the Colony, to accomplish a benevolent design, must have for its basis the formation of the Christian Religion, is distinguished by the clearness characteristic of his mind, and has not been superseded to this day by maturer views regarding the same important topic. For three years, he discussed these matters in a desultory but increasingly interesting manner, till in 1820 he issued a periodical, intended to be exclusively appropriated to them. They had not, however, as yet, excited any thing like a general interest, and the work did not proceed. His resolution now wavered. It was not for lack of energy; but peculiar circumstances, which we need not here revive, filled him with distressing doubts of the influence of his ministry. He had already preached a year or two; but he undertook, in this stage of useless embarrassment, the study of medicine, and then he began law,—having his daily bread, all the while, to earn by his daily labor, added to what he calls, "The weight of a most losing literary enterprise." Still his destiny went on. At the request of a brother of the lamented Samuel Bacon,—a Massachusetts' man, from Worcester County,—who had recently deceased, in the earliest attempt to found a colony on the African shore,—he engaged in the composition of a memoir of that gentleman. It was extended to a volume of over three hundred octavo pages; and the work gives evidence of a vigorous enthusiasm and laborious reflection and research. Yet it occupied him apparently, with all his other engagements and anxieties brooding over him, but a few months of a single season. It seems that having got his materials together, he would shut himself in his room, and for days be visible only at his meals, or perhaps content himself with a cold collation, for which he trusted a servant; and whatever the weather might be, the day-break was sure to find him on his way to his study, upon Pennsylvania Avenue, half a mile distant, there to remain incessantly busy with his volume, till a late hour of the evening. But the work was finished, and the writer survived. We find him in charge of a Baltimore expedition of African emigrants, with whom, in August of 1822, he landed at Cape

Montserado, sole agent,—his predecessors having by this time returned to America,—for the affairs of the little colonial settlement.

We shall not follow the course of the Memoir. That would be essentially to furnish a history of the colony, which, in fact, Mr. Gurley has done, for all the period of Mr. Ashmun's administration, embodying in his sketch a variety of documents and anecdotes of lively interest, which never before have seen the light, and whose value no person was better qualified to appreciate than himself. Whatever may be the disposition of the descendants of the first African colonists,

“In the long line of coming days,”

to do honor to the enterprise of their ancestors,—or the rational curiosity, in any quarter, to investigate the origin of one of the most remarkable movements of the age in which it began; or let its course be as it may, it never can be said that the foundations of the scheme were laid, as those of *other* states have been, in obscurity; or that the materials are wanting for tracing the growth of the oak, back even to its source in the acorn.

An outline of the situations severally in which Mr. Ashmun found the settlement at his arrival, and in which he left it at his death,—bearing in mind the means at his disposal,—will convey, perhaps, the best conception of the nature of his labors, and indeed no feeble estimate of his character also. It may at the same time be of service, in aiding those who are sufficiently ready to disparage and despise what has been done,—without much of a corresponding disposition to do any thing themselves,—to do justice, at least, both to those of their fellow-citizens who have produced these results, such as they are, and to those who regard them as among the most extraordinary which human energy has, in any age, accomplished, or the wisdom of benevolence projected.

A purchase of territory from the native rulers had been effected previous to Ashmun's arrival, but neither was the negotiation as yet wholly consummated, nor were any documents defining the limits of the premises in possession of the American party. The site of what is now Monrovia, on the Cape, as well as the greater portion of the peninsula, was a complete wilderness, overgrown with dense forest, entangled with vines and brushwood,—the haunt of savage beasts,—divided here and there only by the narrow pathway, cut by the natives, for access to the shore. In the bosom of this vast desert, just began the germ of civilization to be disclosed. A small spot had been scooped out, as it were, of the woods, almost as the barbarians in the neighborhood were accustomed to hollow a log for the purposes of their rude navigation. About thirty huts were raised, and a small store-house, insufficient for its purpose. Some of the settlers were still without shelter of their own. What public property there had been was chiefly consumed by a recent fire. No preparation had been made for the next expedition. The surrounding country was populous with hordes of savages, eager for booty, and ignorant of the character of these new-comers,—and, in fact, they had already made no equivocal

manifestations of a most formidable hostile purpose. Finally, the whole population of the settlement, including the Baltimore emigrants, did not exceed one hundred and thirty, of whose ability for defence, it is sufficient to remark, that but *thirty-five* were capable of bearing arms. What auspices were these for an American colony in the very heart of the slave-coast!

Nor were the immediate circumstances of Ashmun's landing better calculated to inspire him with sanguine expectations of success. The vessel was scarcely moored, when a violent gale, blowing directly on shore, forced her off with the loss of an anchor; and it was only with extreme difficulty that, after a vain attempt for forty-eight hours to sail out of the bay, the anchor being providentially recovered, she was at length brought to a fixed position, at the distance of some miles from the settlement. The weather continued boisterous; the boatmen became sick; the principal boat used in landing the cargo was lost; and it cost the Agent a month of incessant labor, finally to accomplish that indispensable labor. We shall see more of his trials in the sequel.

He commenced his administration with vigor immediately on his arrival. A colonial journal was opened. Inventories were made of the condition of the colony. A store-house was begun, and a building, first designed for a market-house, set in order for the re-captured Africans, who had formed a part of the last expedition. Efforts were at once used to ascertain the disposition of the chiefs. The agent had interviews with King Peter, and King Long Peter; and made visits of conciliation to other potentates too numerous to mention. He extended the plan of the town. He gave the Africans a settlement of their own, and furnished them a system of instruction in all the practical arts of life. He made arrangements for receiving a few of the children of the natives into the colony, as pupils in civilization. And all this was subordinate to the great object of defence, and had been the work probably of less than a week; for as early as the 13th we find it recorded,—a constant record being kept by the agent himself,—that “the present martello tower was planned, laborers employed in clearing the site, and a particular survey taken of the military strength and means of the settlers.” This survey shows a singular state of things. Of the Americans, “*twenty-seven, when not sick*, were able to bear arms,” though, by the way, to bear them was *all* they could do, being wholly untrained to their use, as well as exhausted with other labors, now including the duty of keeping up a continual night-watch of no fewer than twenty of their number. Then there were five iron guns, and one brass one, belonging to the settlement, but unfortunately buried in the mud on the opposite side of the water; besides, that four of the pieces required carriages before they could be used at all. When to this account it is added that there was no fixed ammunition, and very little of any sort, and that only by great exertions and with much delay, was it practicable to load the only gun provided with a carriage,—we have a tolerable idea of the resources of the colony for defence against the myriads of barbarians who now hovered, by day and night, nearer and nearer, over what they instinctively regarded as already their appointed prey. We have omitted the mention of “*forty muskets in store, which, with repairing, were capa-*

ble of being rendered serviceable,"—that is, we suppose, provided there were any body to use them.

However, this was the element of Ashmun; and he now began to live; his indecision, if the remains of it had still lingered, floated away into thin air, like the mist of the morning. Thirteen African boys, of the United States' agency, were enrolled, and exercised in the use of arms. The guns were with infinite labor, one by one, transported into town, and mounted upon rough carriages. The muskets were repaired. The ammunition was made up. The toil of clearing the skirts of the settlement from the thick woods around it, which furnished a cover for the enemy's approach, was commenced and carried on with energy. Military laws were issued, officers appointed, the settlement surrounded with abatis or other fencework, and the artillery stationed. The rains all this time were immoderate, and nearly uninterrupted. At length sickness came. Mr. Ashmun was seized with a fever on the 25th. His wife had an attack three days after. The times grew more gloomy. Intercourse was suspended with the natives, and their children recalled. The recent emigrants were gradually taken down, till by the 10th of September, only *two* of their number remained well. Ashmun, meanwhile, held on, and bated not one jot. For four weeks he maintained "a difficult struggle," as he calls it, with his disorder, but was never utterly discouraged. It was no uncommon thing for him, during this period, to pass the night in delirious suffering, and the subsequent morning in directing personally the execution of the public works! What a magnificent spectacle of Christian courage and human energy, inspired indeed with more than mortal hopes! The whole history of the contests of civilization and Christianity for a foothold in Pagan territory, does not furnish a more brilliant illustration of the elements of perseverance, and success, which both comprise.

Take another scene. On the 6th, the Agent, having matured his plans, and guarded against the event of his own decease, by communicating them to the most intelligent of his people, called them all together, read his instructions, published the regulations which he deemed essential to the general welfare, and addressed them on their condition and duties. Six days after, we meet with this passage in his journal:—"Rain falls in floods. The sick all seem better, except Mrs. Ashmun. She is speechless and almost without the use of her reason.—There is no rational hope of her recovery. All remedies which her husband dares to venture, have been tried in vain." We scarcely need remark that no medical aid could be had in the colony. Again, he beheld "*a female of most delicate constitution, lying under the influence of a mortal fever, in the corner of a miserable hut, (to ventilate which in a proper manner was impossible), on a couch literally dripping with water, which a roof of thatch was unable to exclude.*" She expired on the 15th, and poor Ashmun was relieved of her distress. He remained in an extremely low state, however, himself, for several weeks more,—incapable even of motion at times; and it was not till the 7th of November that he was able to recommence his entries. Fortunately, his people had made good progress meanwhile. He had not only possessed these brave fellows of his plans, but of no small por-

tion of a less communicable quality of preparation,—the invincible intrepidity of his own spirit.

Fortunately, also,—using this word in its popular acceptation,—through the diligent faithfulness of an unknown individual, the Agent was now informed of all the movements and counsels of his barbarous enemies, from day to day; and it is but justice to observe, that he apprised them frankly that he was so,—at the same time warning them of his own wishes to continue at peace, and his equal determination, if attacked, to teach them “what it was to fight *white men*.”* There had been, and was, no pretext of a cause of hostility on their part; and he intended farther that no room should be left for the imputation to him, by his own countrymen, of a disposition, which no man could be farther from feeling, to embroil the colony in a wanton warfare.—The frightful odds arrayed against him, indeed,—and sure to be so, in case of any rupture,—is in itself abundant proof that he could cherish no notions of a belligerent *policy*. The miserable condition of the colony, too weak to resist even an ordinary attack,—his efforts in due season to conciliate his neighbors,—and his remaining during the whole difficulty strictly in a posture of defence, till, as mere lawyers say, he was “driven to the wall,”—are circumstances each of them equally and entirely conclusive on the same point. That conclusion indeed would have seemed almost self-evident, but for the discussions which some persons have affected to raise in regard to it. It would be gratifying to be informed what more peaceable or more forcible policy, either, it would have been possible for him to pursue,—more peaceable to conciliate, or more forcible to prevent. Literally, “*as far as possible*,” in our opinion, he followed the spirit of his Divine Master; and we rejoice that, only in the exhaustion of that contingency, he was found adequate to the subsequent crisis.

It came on apace. On the 7th he had advices of a fresh movement. He inspected his works, and reviewed his gallant little force,—assuring them, “as the cause was emphatically that of God and their country, they might confidently expect His blessing.” The men slept on their arms, but the night passed, as also Saturday the 9th, and Sunday the 10th, without alarm, though only the women and children on the latter day were considered at liberty to attend divine service, and the enemy were heard of, as encamped in a force of from six to nine hundred men, only half a mile from the village. About day-light, the next morning, they marched on, just at a moment when the guard had incautiously retreated. The savages marched up with a front of ten yards, discharged their muskets, and ran forward to seize the post at which they aimed. Some confusion followed. The guard retreated farther, on the reserve. Luckily, the barbarians were caught by their avidity for plunder, which they stopped to search for in some scattered houses. The settlers rallied. Two guns were brought up. The second discharge staggered the whole native force. A few musketeers, besetting their flank, increased the agitation. In twenty minutes they recoiled. The guns made horrible havoc, in a mass of eight hundred men, fully exposed, and densely crowded. It was insufferable. They

* A synonyme on the coast for *civilized people*.

raised a yell of savage terror, and fled en masse to the woods. Their loss was very large, but never precisely ascertained. Mr. Ashmun gives the following account of the greater part of his own:—

“One woman* who had imprudently passed the night in the house first beset by the enemy, had received thirteen wounds, and been thrown aside as dead. Another,† flying from her house with her two infant children, received a wound in the head, from a cutlass, and was robbed of both her babes; but providentially escaped. A young married woman,‡ with the mother of five small children, finding the house in which they slept surrounded by savage enemies, barricaded the door, in the vain hope of safety. It was forced. Each of the women then seizing an axe, held the irresolute barbarians in check for several minutes longer. Having discharged their guns, they seemed desirous of gaining the shelter of the house previous to re-loading. At length, with the aid of their spears, and by means of a general rush, they overcame their heroine adversaries, and instantly stabbed the youngest to the heart. The mother, instinctively springing for her suckling babe, which recoiled through fright, and was left behind, rushed through a small window on the opposite side of the house, and providentially escaped to the lines, unhurt, between two heavy fires.”

The force of the settlers amounted to thirty-five persons, including six boys, and about half of them were engaged, the rest duly maintaining their stations. The proportion of numbers, therefore, was at least *forty to one*, in the enemy's favor!

The lines were now contracted, the dead buried, the wounded disposed of as well as they could be, and the men freshly disciplined.—On the 17th, half the people, as the journal states, had the extraordinary privilege of attending divine service. Fresh efforts were made for peace, but in vain. The 23d, was observed as a day of humiliation, thanksgiving and prayer. A Liverpool vessel put in, and served to keep off the enemy for some days. At this time, exclusive of rice, there was not fifteen days' provision in store,—the population were subjected to “allowances,”—the ammunition was insufficient for a general defence of even an hour;—and if to these facts we add that seven of the children were now in the hands of the natives, and quite a number of the people wounded and sick, not to say dispirited, we shall be able to appreciate the spirit which the Agent still continued both to exhibit, and to inspire, in a great degree, into those around him. The savages came on again, in the morning of December 2nd, in two opposite quarters. In one, three several onsets were most bravely resisted, with some carnage. In the other, they had four times rushed forward, and were driven back by the heavy guns. They then filed off for another post, but the Agent perceiving the movement, lay in wait from the stockade, and gave them as they passed such a reception as soon staggered them again. The order of retreat was issued, and the whole force, after a series of skirmishes, which continued over an hour, almost instantaneously disappeared. Their loss was very considerable, but less than before; their number was greater,—probably as many as fifteen hundred. Their plan of attack was judicious, and firmly supported, and their musketry managed with activity at least, since it seems “the quantity of shot lodged in the paling, and thrown within the lines, was almost incredible.” They loaded sometimes a foot deep, with iron and copper slugs. They had

* Mrs. Ann Hawkins; who after long and incredible sufferings, recovered, and is yet living.

† Mrs. Minty Draper.

‡ Mary Tines.

cannon, but loading them was a half-hour's business, and the adroitness of the colonists in the use of the same articles, was by them ascribed to sorcery. Two of the latter were badly, and one mortally wounded. Mr. Ashmun received three bullets in his clothes, but escaped safe. The settlers universally behaved with the utmost coolness and vigor. On an equal distribution of the shot among the guns after the battle, *less than three rounds for each were found remaining!* And thus ended one of the most remarkable contests recorded in all the history of man. It saved the colony at the time from total destruction, and has preserved its peace, reputation, and prosperity, in a great measure, from that day to this.

It must have been noticed, how striking were some of the escapes of the Agent, as well as the colony. Another case of the kind occurred on the 3d, when an accidental alarm, given by a guard, proved the means of bringing relief to the settlement. It was a British schooner, with stores, and having on board the celebrated traveller Laing, by whose influence the chiefs were afterwards bound to a truce. A midshipman and eleven seamen, were left to see it preserved; *nine* of these died within a month. Mr. Ashmun relapsed again into his fever, but his guardian genius succored him by the opportune arrival of a medical Frenchman, who administered a violent remedy, which cured him. The captives were restored. Trade was opened with the natives, and visits made among them. A new expedition came out in May. About this time he wrote home,—“We are now about one hundred and fifty strong, all in health, have about fifty houses, including three store-houses, and a heavy, substantial stone-tower, mounting six pieces of ordnance. Harmony and industry in a good degree prevail. Thus you see we are prepared to go on and fulfil the anxious wishes of the friends of the cause, in relation to the cultivation of the lands, and the formation of a regular, moral and happy society. A change indeed! And all accomplished, within a few months, and by the energy of a single man! “A young man,” too,—as his biographer, who has conducted this narrative with great animation, well remarks,—“and bred to letters, of retired habits, educated for the ministry of Christ, unknown to fame, the victim of disappointment, burdened with debt, touched by undeserved reproach;” and, of course, he might have added, waiving his domestic afflictions, —with a feeble constitution at best, now exhausted almost to the last degree of endurance, by a long process of delirious and wasting fever!

Dr. Ayres came out in the last expedition, and his presence somewhat relieved Mr. Ashmun of his labors, though he still continued acting as agent. It is a striking illustration of his character, how eagerly he embraced this little interval of comparative *leisure*, for a few months,—which doubtless his health demanded should be so used,—to rush freshly into the old habit of indefatigable application to his studies. Four hours daily, for three months, he devoted, in that enfeebling climate, to Blackstone's Commentaries; and French, and history, and criticism, and politics, and works of imagination even, and a good deal of constant composition besides, were added to the labors of the law. In the next March, we find him writing, as might be expected, to the Managers, for an opportunity to return to this country, on account of his growing infirmities,—which however came

not. His only relief was a voyage to the Cape de Verde Islands, in the preparation for which he ruptured an artery, and bleeding continually for twenty-eight hours, was reduced to the last point of exhaustion, when,—as his better star sometimes arose, when he looked for it least,—a French vessel came in sight, and a surgeon stopped his hemorrhage in half an hour. But we will not pursue the history in its details. Many of them, it would be as unpleasant as it is needless to revive. Of the misunderstanding between the Agent and the Board, and the explanation of it, a full account is published in the *Memoir*; but it is enough to remark here, that justice was done at last, and that both the Society and the public at large were finally convinced that, while the progress and prosperity of the settlement were wholly ascribable to him, as long as he remained there,—and a most essential proportion of them, from that time forward,—it would probably be vain to expect that the place, by his departure left vacant, could ever be supplied. Even by the close of 1826, “divinely assisted,” as Mr. Gurley expresses it, “he had laid, immovably, on that heathen shore, the foundations of a Christian empire.” The colonists were universally attached to him. The barbarians, who had fought him, now knew him by the endearing titles of “Head-man for all their country,” and “Father of we all.” An excellent system of laws was established. New and flourishing settlements had been founded, and great accessions of valuable territory made in various directions. Two handsome churches adorned the village of Monrovia. Batteries, forts, a market-house, a Lancasterian school-house, a town-house, and several other buildings were at this time going up. The colony was in perfect health. A colonial schooner was launched. The commerce had increased with such rapidity, that traders had made a profit of over \$30,000 between January and July, in African produce sold to foreign vessels; and a New England merchant, who landed a cargo, worth \$8,000, was paid for the whole of it in the course of ten days. There was a public library, at this period, of twelve hundred volumes. What a contrast to the state of affairs four years before! The annals of Colonization, from first to last, furnish no precedent for it.

Mr. Ashmun continued in the colony till he was no longer able to discharge his duties, and a voyage was resorted to, as the last source of a hope of recovery. On the 25th of March, 1828, attended by the affectionate good wishes of all his people, he went on board the brig *Doris*, “and with the feelings,” says his Biographer, “which seek despairingly for expression, through the eyes of the dying, in their last fixed look upon an object which the heart holds fast to its final moment,” left Africa forever. He spent some time at St. Bartholomew’s,—felt his strength revive a little, and took passage for New Haven in July,—was exhilarated for a day or two by the joy of arrival among his friends,—relapsed again,—minutely arranged his private affairs,—bequeathed his little property to the cause of African missions,—dictated a letter of business, from his bed, on the last day of his life,—prayed over his little African ward, who stood in tears beside him,—affectionately parted with those who watched with him to the end, (including the friend who has given in this *Memoir* so beautiful a proof of his appreciation of the martyr’s character),—and at length “expired gently, and in a moment, on the evening of the 28th of

August, 1828, in the thirty-fifth year of his age." We shall close the magnificent but melancholy scene, with the eloquent closing passages of the volume before us, including, it will be perceived, a sketch of one of the most touching little incidents it is possible to conceive.—The reverential affection of Ashmun for his parents, and indeed the faithfulness with which he clung to every attachment, were among the most delightful traits, of even a character fitted as his was, to attract the fond admiration of all who knew him.

"A large concourse of the citizens of New Haven, and of the neighboring towns, united in a solemn tribute of respect to his memory, and attended his remains to the grave. The assembly had already filled the Central Church, to which the body of the deceased was conveyed, and the Minister of Christ just concluded his humble supplications to the God of all mercy and consolation, when a venerable, solitary female, entered the congregation, and with a look which told what her tongue might in vain have essayed to speak, approached the corpse. It was the mother of Ashmun! Every heart in that vast assembly beat fainter, as they beheld this aged matron, who had travelled for several days and nights from a remote part of the country, in the hope of embracing her living son, pressing her lips and her heart upon the coffin which concealed all that remained of that son in death, forever from hersight.*

"The Discourse of the Rev. Leonard Bacon, on this occasion, (which has been given to the public) was a just and eloquent defence of the spirit, that animates the martyrs to a great and good cause, and under the power of which Ashmun had sacrificed his life in the service of Africa. 'His example (said the preacher) shall speak.'

"There have been men whose names are way-marks; whose examples, through successive ages, stir the spirits of their fellow men with noble emulation. What has been done for God, and for the souls of men, and for the cause of wretched human nature, by the lustre which gathers around the name of David Brainard. How many lofty spirits has the simple history of his toils and sorrows kindled and roused to kindred enterprise. Other names there are, which beam from age to age with the same glory. Howard, Clarkson, Swartz, Mills,—what meaning is there in such names as these! Our departed friend will add another to that brilliant catalogue. He takes his place

'Amid th' august and never dying light
Of constellated spirits, who have gained
A name in heaven by power of heavenly deeds.'

"Let us praise God for the light of his example, which shall never be extinguished, and which, as it beams on us, shall also beam on our children, and our children's children, moving them to deeds of godlike benevolence.

'Praise! for yet one more name, with power endowed,
To cheer and guide us, onward as we press;
Yet one more image, on the heart bestowed,
To dwell there, beautiful in holiness.'

"We have come to his grave. A simple, but beautiful monument, erected by the Managers of the American Colonization Society, in the church-yard of New Haven, (a spot which nature has made lovely, and which affection and piety have planted with trees and flowers, as if anxious to throw a charm and fragrance around the resting-places of the dead), bears the name of Ashmun. This monument may perish, but that name never. It is engraved on the heart of Africa.

"In his person, Mr. Ashmun was tall,—his hair and eyes light,—his features regular and cast in the finest mould,—his manners mild, yet dignified,—and in his countenance, an expression of the gentlest affections softened the lineaments of a lofty, firm, and fearless mind.

"He early saw the truth and felt the power of the Christian Religion. Its principles were ever living and active in his soul. The passions of youth might war

* The warmth of the season rendered it imprudent to open the coffin,—a circumstance painful at the time,—but which left unaffected in the memory of the venerable parent of Ashmun those pleasing ideas of her son, which his early manly beauty had impressed upon it.

against them,—in the conflict with temptation, they might seem, for a moment, giving way; but they were indestructible,—of the seed of God that liveth and abideth forever.

“In grief, and temptation, and reproach,—in want, and danger, and pain,—when so cast down by affliction, that his soul became weary of life, he acknowledged himself under the discipline of the Almighty; he praised the name of God with a song, and magnified it with thanksgiving. While, with David, he remembered the works of God and his wonders of old, his troubled thoughts were soothed, and he exclaimed, ‘Why art thou cast down, O my soul? Why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance and my God.’ Strengthened by the consolations of God, his spirit rose towards the innumerable company of just men made perfect, who, once in tribulation like his, now stand inaccessible to misery or to danger, on the ‘mountains of glory,’ and seem to bend upon him looks of tenderness and love.

“Such is the power of dispensing blessings which Providence has attached to the truly great and good, that they cannot even die without advantage to their fellow-creatures; for death consecrates their example; and the wisdom, which might have been slighted at the council-table, becomes oracular at the shrine. Those rare excellencies, which make our grief poignant, make it likewise profitable; and the tears which wise men shed for the departure of the wise, are among those that are preserved in Heaven.*

“Spirit of Ashmun! dost thou not look down upon me, while to that cause, to which thou gavest thy all, thy life, I dedicate this humble offering to thy worth? I cast it on thy grave,—for there, a potent and unslumbering spirit dwells, which will not leave it voiceless. Thou hast not lived,—thou hast not died in vain. I hear responded from ten thousand tongues, thou hast not lived,—thou hast not died in vain. The light thou hast kindled in Africa shall never go out; the principles thou hast exemplified, are true and everlasting. Thy country shall yet, shall soon do justice; and when in all her borders no fetter shall be worn by the guiltless, when upon Africa, now just awakening to a sense of her miseries, and stretching out her hands for help, she shall have conferred, in the free spirit of the Great Master of Christians, her language, her liberty, and her religion; rewarded with the gratitude of millions, and the honors of all nations clustering thick upon her, Africa—America—the World shall know, thou hast not lived, thou hast not died in vain.

‘Thou hast left behind,
Powers that will work for thee! air, earth, and skies;
There’s not a breathing of the common wind
That will forget thee! thou hast great allies!
Thy friends are exultations, agonies,
And love, and man’s unconquerable mind.’”

We might have called attention to those portions of this work which discuss, in a very able manner, some of the most interesting subjects connected with the scheme of African Colonization; but these subjects have acquired in our day a commanding conspicuousness of their own, which, independently of the peculiar qualifications of Mr. Gurley for doing them justice, cannot fail to secure them sufficient consideration. Faults, also, could be pointed out in the composition; and the size of the volume, in our opinion, might be reduced beneficially for its circulation; but it is, as we called it in the outset, so intrinsically both a just and generous work,—so liberal and so laborious, alike,—that we can indulge no disposition to criticise for a moment.

It would have been a far more grateful and a far more useful task, were there space for it, to illustrate from the pages of this single volume, as it would have been easy to do, with what surprising sagacity the mind of Ashmun, in the infant stage of the scheme to which he devoted his life, had completely apprehended and anticipated all the

principles subservient to its prosperity, and all the consequences involved in its issue. Its ablest advocates, even now, may gather convictions of its true character afresh from the study of his writings, as well as from the observation of his policy. No man more deeply felt, especially, how essential to the great ends of the Colony's establishment,—not to say to its existence,—would be found the reliance of its Managers, and the cultivation of the character of its population, on the basis of the Christian religion, as a point of primary moment. He perceived, too, the importance of its commercial capacities, and the greater importance of sustaining its agriculture, its arts, its system of education, its strict morality, its health, its harmony with its neighbors,—in a word, of making it at all events, and above all things else, *a desirable place for the colored man to go to*. That is the sum and substance of the plan; and it is simple, intelligent, unexceptionable: and what is more to the purpose, practicable; and not practicable only, but available to an indefinite extent,—indefinite as the capacities of one continent to *furnish* the population, whose welfare is and was the first consideration for its maintenance, and for its institution,—and as the providentially inexhaustible and splendid abilities and fitness of the other continent to *receive*. All this is substantiated; and the colony, therefore, should it perish to-day, no more than Ashmun, would “have lived in vain.” It would have accomplished a great purpose,—the great purpose of all others,—the establishment of a conclusive experiment in fact, and of an inevitable inference in reason, that the degree of the extension of that experiment, and its benefits hereafter, may now safely be left to the experience, added to the intelligence, of the American people; and that it will be limited only by the amount of the energies which those powerful agents, severally interested in its development, from time to time, shall themselves be willing to expend in its prosecution.

To make the colony, we say, a desirable resort of the colored man, implies every thing necessary to the utmost triumph of the scheme.—It implies every thing in the mode of the management, and every thing in the nature of the results. It implies, as Ashmun well knew, a scrupulous care in the selection of emigrants, and a slow and cautious progress of the settlement for many years,—a policy, from the temporary postponement of which to the gratification of a general eagerness to hurry the benefits of the Institution, all its temporary inconveniences may be plainly deduced. It implies, not emigration of more colonists, but education and care of those already gone over; not the increase of the Colony as a prime policy, but its welfare first, and of course its increase after; its reputation; the already beginning series of new experiments, rising around it, (like the flourishing Pennsylvanian and Maryland settlements), each improved by the practice of the last, and by the genial light of the period in which it originates; the gradual growth of a system of voluntary emigration; the spread of a prosperous commerce; the whole chapter of colonial influence on the African continent, and the slave-trade of the coast; the promotion of science; the propagation of Christianity; in fine, as we said before, the indefinite amplification of the entire scheme, with all its immense and endless issues.

LIBERIA.

In June last, the Maryland State Colonization Society despatched the schooner *Harmony*, Captain Pascal, with emigrants to Cape Palmas. Miss McAlister, a lady of deep piety and ardent zeal in the cause of African Colonization, accompanied the expedition in the capacity of a volunteer teacher to the children of the Colonists and natives, with the purpose of devoting the residue of her life to that employment. The *Harmony* stopped at Monrovia on her way, and while there, Miss McAlister wrote a letter to a friend in the United States, with the following extracts of which we have been kindly furnished:

MONROVIA, LIBERIA, Aug. 17, 1835.

*Dear Sister S****:* The Lord, in His goodness, has permitted us to reach, at last, a civilized spot on this coast: I avail myself of the present opportunity to address you, as the vessel will remain at this place one day longer, before we proceed to Cape Palmas, our place of destination.

I had the pleasure on landing, to meet brother G. R. McGill, a minister of the gospel, formerly resident in Baltimore, at whose house I shall tarry until we embark to finish our voyage. Brother Seys and his family arrived before us—they all enjoy good health.

I was quite agreeably surprised on landing at this place, to find things looking so comfortable. I had no idea of finding such a state of things. Yesterday (the Sabbath) I listened with great satisfaction to two sermons delivered in the Methodist Church, by brother Seys—we had a large congregation.

The people here, have the same customs, ceremonies, and fashions, as prevail in the United States, but have not arrived to the same state of perfection; though for the short time they have been here, they have done exceedingly well. There are regular Sabbath schools, class meetings, prayer meetings, &c. Every person appears cheerful and well satisfied; and the family in which I reside, ten or twelve in number, look as healthy as persons in the U. States. You cannot imagine the comfortable situation of persons here. Let me assure you, my dear sister, the half has not been told of the benefits people enjoy here. The houses are principally framed and weatherboarded, but without chimnies, which makes them appear odd. There are some houses built of stone, two stories high, and furnished with much taste—what I have seen far exceeds my greatest expectations.

Please inform the colored people that they have no idea of the state of improvement people have arrived at here.

I tell you in truth, that I do here enjoy myself with friends in the Lord, and the Lord among friends.

EMANCIPATION.

In our last number, p. 336, appeared a letter from Mr. R. S. Finley, in which it was stated that a gentleman named [Edward B.] Randolph, near Columbus in Mississippi, wished to send all his slaves to Liberia. Application has since been made to the Managers to aid in transferring these people to Liberia. They are about 20 in number, all of whom, except one, promptly decided to go, and will be ready to sail after the 1st of January next. Mr. Randolph is represented to be a pious Christian, and to have been for some time anxiously preparing them for this change, by suitable instruction. The State Society of Mississippi, will assume the expenses of their transfer. In consequence of Mr. Randolph's arrangements for their benefit, he has sold his land.

Miss Martha Walker of Va. liberated by her last will and test~~am~~.

ment, all her slaves, 16 in number, on the condition that they should be hired out until a sum could be raised in addition to the amount bequeathed to them, which would enable them to remove to such place as the Executor, Mr. Richard Duke, might select. A majority of them are disposed to go to Liberia.

Mrs. Ann R. Page, of Virginia, who had on former occasions sent manumitted slaves to the Colony, proposes to send thither 4 others, viz. a man and his wife and child, and the wife's mother.

The late Jedediah T. Atkinson of Petersburg, Va., by his last will and testament, authorized his Executor to deliver over to the Colonization Society several slaves to be transferred to Liberia.

Mr. — Wever of Jefferson county, Va., proposes to send about 25 manumitted slaves to the Colony. None of them are over middle age; only two so old; the rest are young, and all are very healthy.

ABOLITION.

VIRGINIA BAPTISTS, ON ABOLITION.—The following preamble and resolution, were unanimously adopted by the Shiloh Baptist Association of Virginia, at their recent meeting:

"Whereas the public peace is greatly interrupted, and the cause of religion threatened, by the efforts of a portion of the Northern people, especially by the practice of sending Abolition papers, by mail, to various persons who have never called for them, Therefore

"Unanimously Resolved, That we view the interference of the Northern Abolitionists, in the question of slavery, as altogether unwarrantable; and that, as a religious body, we do most decidedly disapprove of the steps they are taking, and we would recommend to all our brethren to whom Abolition papers may hereafter be sent, either to return them by mail, or to burn them."

VIRGINIA PRESBYTERIANS, ON ABOLITION.—The Synod of Virginia, at its recent session in the last week of October, adopted the following report and resolution, on the Abolition question:

The Committee to whom were referred the resolutions of the Winchester Presbytery, and the preamble and resolution of Hanover Presbytery, &c., have, according to order, had the same under consideration—and respectfully report that in their judgment, the following resolutions are necessary and proper to be adopted by the Synod at the present time:

Whereas the publications and proceedings of certain organized associations, commonly called Anti-Slavery or Abolition Societies, which have arisen in some parts of our land, have greatly disturbed and are still greatly disturbing the peace of the church, and of the country; and the Synod of Virginia deem it a solemn duty, which they owe to themselves and to the community, to declare their sentiments upon the subject; therefore

Resolved unanimously, That we consider the dogma fiercely promulgated by said associations—that slavery as it actually exists in our slaveholding States, is NECESSARILY SINFUL, AND OUGHT TO BE IMMEDIATELY ABOLISHED, and the conclusions which naturally follow from that dogma, AS DIRECTLY AND PALPABLY CONTRARY TO THE PLAINEST PRINCIPLES OF COMMON SENSE, AND COMMON HUMANITY, AND TO THE clearest authority of the word of God.

Resolved unanimously, That in the deliberate judgment of the Synod, it is the duty of all ministers of the gospel to follow the example of our Lord and Saviour, and of his apostles in similar circumstances, in abstaining from all interference with the state of slavery, as established amongst us by the Commonwealth, and confining themselves strictly to their proper province of inculcating upon masters and slaves, the duties enjoined upon them respectively in the sacred Scriptures, which must tend immediately to promote the welfare of both, and ultimately to restore the whole world to that state of holy happiness, which is the earnest desire of every Christian heart.

The above preamble and resolutions having been severally read, and adopted by paragraphs, the Moderator asked, and obtained leave to vote with the Synod on the adoption of the entire report. The question being put, it was unanimously adopted, every member, it is believed, giving it a hearty response.

MISSOURI METHODIST CONFERENCE, ON COLONIZATION AND ABOLITION.—At the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church of Missouri, on the 17th of Sept. last, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas in the opinion of the conference, the plan of colonizing the free people of color of these United States, on the coast of Africa, is the most practicable means of securing to that unfortunate class the blessings of civil and religious liberty, in the true sense of the word;—And whereas this Conference considers the colonization enterprise well calculated to transmit to the benighted nations of Africa the news of salvation through a Mediator; therefore

Resolved, by the Missouri Annual Conference, That we highly approve of the Colonization enterprise as conducted by the American Colonization Society.

Resolved, That we will use our influence and reasonable endeavors to promote its interests, and recommend its claims to the people among whom we may be appointed to labor.

Resolved, That we view with avowed disapprobation the course pursued by the "Abolition Society," and its agents; and that we consider it as mischievous in its character, and not calculated to better the situation of the people of color of these United States, and that it has a tendency to sow dissension among the people of these U. States and the several States of the Union.

RELIEF OF THE SUFFERERS AT BASSA COVE.

On Thursday evening, Oct. 22nd, in pursuance of public notice, a town meeting was held at the county Court-house in Philadelphia, to take into consideration the recent barbarous attack on the Colony of free blacks at Bassa Cove, and to devise means for repairing as far as possible the injuries inflicted, and for preventing similar calamities in future. CHARLES WHEELER was called to the chair, and WILLIAM W. McMAIN and JOSEPH PATTERSON were appointed Secretaries.—Resolutions were passed, to appeal to the citizens of Philadelphia for means adequate to the present relief and future protection of the suffering colonists; and asserting their peculiar claims on that community. The following preamble and resolution were adopted on motion of the Rev. G. W. Bethune:

Whereas the American people, speaking through their national representatives, have pronounced the slave trade piracy, and pledged themselves to other nations to co-operate in its extermination;—and whereas the American colonies on the windward coast of Africa are eminently adapted to aid in this great work, and have already done much in its behalf;—and whereas there is satisfactory evidence that the late massacre of the defenceless colonists of the Pennsylvania and New York settlement of Bassa Cove has been chiefly owing to the wicked machinations of persons engaged in the slave trade, who saw in the establishment of said colony, the destruction of their nefarious traffic;—and whereas the absence for some time past of our armed ships from that coast, has emboldened the enemies of the colony, to seek its extinction; therefore

Resolved, That the General Government be, and hereby is most earnestly and respectfully solicited to renew and extend the cruises of ships of war upon that coast, and to direct such means of defence to be afforded to those afflicted colonists, as may be consistent with the existing laws of the country, and as in the wisdom of Government may be esteemed necessary and proper.

The NEW YORK COLONIZATION SOCIETY held a meeting on the 30th of October, at the Masonic Hall, the objects of which were stated by the Rev. President DUEK, President of the Society. He said that one circumstance which called for present

attention, was the late disaster at Bassa Cove, an event much to be deplored, but yet not to be compared in its extent with events of the same character which occurred at the first settlement of New England and of Virginia. There was therefore nothing in it to discourage the Society, yet it was necessary to make provision against the recurrence of similar scenes hereafter. Another subject which called for consideration and for enlarged operations on the part of the Society, was the fact, that in consequence of the prevailing excitement, it was highly probable that the law of Virginia, which forbids the residence of free colored persons in that State, would ere long be rigorously enforced. Of this the Society have been unofficially notified. There were from fifty to one hundred thousand such persons in the State of Virginia, who in the event mentioned must find a refuge at the North. And he submitted whether it would not be far better to afford them the means of returning to the land of their fathers, than to provide for them as paupers or otherwise among ourselves.

SAMUEL A. FOOTE, Esq. then addressed the meeting. In the course of his speech he stated that we had a population of more than four millions who were either physically or morally in slavery; and that whatever measures might be adopted for them, it was essential that the South should take the lead.

"If," said he, "this immense population was to be retained in this country in a condition of freedom, their history was written in the history of the aboriginal inhabitants of the country, and in the miserable population of the same class of persons, which we now see in our streets. The enquiry whether they shall be incorporated into our social relations, has a ready answer in the bosoms of us all.—We have no alternative but to assist them to go home, carrying with them the blessings of civilization and religion to Africa. This plan is approved by the South; a circumstance which should increase, not diminish our attachment to the *plan*." The meeting was further addressed by Dr. Reese, Wm. H. Maxwell, Esq., Rev. Dr. Proudfit, Rev. Mr. Hunt of North Carolina, and the Rev. Sereno E. Dwight, D. D. A collection was taken up amounting to 929 dollars.

The meeting then adjourned until the following Thursday evening.

WESTERN AFRICA.—The Rev. Thomas Dove, Wesleyan Missionary, from one of whose letters an extract appeared in the African Repository for July last, (Vol. 11, p. 205.) says in a letter, dated at McCarthy's Island, March 30, 1835, to the Directors of the British and Foreign Bible Society:

"There is evidently a great and glorious work going on among many of the African youth who work the merchants' vessels on the river Gambia. Their thirst for religious knowledge is intense and ardent—there is a holy emulation among them to read the Holy Scriptures and useful books. They often, on their arrival at this place, apply to me for books. On asking them what kind of books they require, their reply is, 'About God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,' &c."

Mr. D. adds, "that the opposition of Mohammedans to Christianity, has 'in some measure abated,' and that 'the gospel of God our Saviour, is silently winning its widening way in this part of Western Africa.'"

Intelligence has been received at the Missionary Rooms, Boston, from Mr. and Mrs. Wilson at Cape Palmas, to June 15. Mr. W. had not entirely recovered from the repeated attacks of the fever previous to April.

Seizure of a Slaver.—The Boston Gazette mentions that a slave schooner called the Evening Edition, formerly a New York newsboat, has been seized at Barbary, by order of the Portuguese Consul, and is now detained in that port. The crew all managed to make their escape.

NEW WORK ON AFRICA.—The *Rev. John Campbell*, of Kingsland, (England,) the author of two volumes of travels in Africa at different times, published some years ago, has recently published a little volume of 208 pages, 18mo., entitled "*African light thrown on a selection of Scripture texts.*" The *Evangelical Magazine* says, "The volume before us is highly characteristic of the author. It is terse, full of anecdote, eminently pious, and withal highly amusing. In a hundred and fifty-four instances, the author has discovered very apt illustrations of Scripture in various customs, or incidents which he observed in his travels in the interior of Africa."

AGENCIES.—In July last the *Rev. Charles W. Andrews* was appointed a special agent of the American Colonization Society for the counties of Berkeley, Frederick, Jefferson, Fauquier and Loudoun, in the State of Virginia. A recent communication from Mr. Andrews exhibits an encouraging view of his efforts and prospects.

Colonization.—We are authorized to say that two individuals will pay each \$500 to the Colonization Society, making together \$1000, on condition that \$9000 more shall be subscribed by our citizens in sums not less than \$200 each, for the same object.—*N. Y. Jour. Com.*

EXPEDITIONS TO LIBERIA.—The Managers of the American Colonization Society have so far resuscitated its finances, as to determine to despatch a vessel to the Colony with about 100 emigrants. She is expected to leave Norfolk about the close of the present month. Among the emigrants proposed to be sent by her are the two African children, brought into the United States by Captain Miller, whose case has excited so much attention.

The brig *Independence*, Capt. Howle, sailed from Philadelphia on Thursday the 19th ultimo, for Bassa Cove, with supplies for the settlement established there by the Societies of N. York and Pennsylvania. The Colonization Herald mentions that the government of the U. States has forwarded by her four small guns, fifty muskets and a competent supply of ammunition for the defence of the settlement; and that Thomas Buchanan of Fort Covington, N. Y., goes out in her as Commissioner of the two Societies, and acting Governor of the settlement while he remains there. He is accompanied by a colored family of four persons from Sackett's harbor, one of whom, a female, is a competent teacher in the Sunday school; and by a native Krooman who came to the U. States last spring in the *Margaret Mercer*.

AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.—The *Rev. Dr. Sereno E. Dwight* has accepted the appointment of General Agent of the Young Men's Colonization Society of Pennsylvania.

The Sixteenth Annual Report of the Vermont Colonization Society was presented at their meeting, Montpelier, October 14. 1835. It exhibits a full view of the condition of the colony, as ascertained by late authentic intelligence. The following officers were elected:

Hon. ELIJAH PAINE, Williamstown, *President*.

Hon. HORATIO SEYMOUR, Middlebury, and Hon. SAMUEL PRENTISS, Montpelier, *Vice-Presidents*.

Hon. Heman Allen, Burlington, *Rev. Willard Child*, Pittsford, *Rev. John K. Converse*, Burlington, *Rev. John Richards*, Windsor, Hon. Phineas White, *Fat-*ney, Hon. Israel P. Dana, Danville, Hon. Daniel Kellogg, Rockingham, Hon. Sam-

uel Clark, Brattleborough, Hon. Thomas Emerson, Windsor, Hon. James Bell, Walden, Wyllys Lyman, Esq. Burlington, and Rev. Thomas A. Merrill, Middlebury, *Managers*.

Hon. Wm. Slade, Middlebury, Hon. Heman Allen, Burlington, Hon. Saml. Prentiss, Montpelier, and Hon. Benjamin Swift, St. Albans, *Delegates to the American Colonization Society*.

Daniel Baldwin, Esq. Montpelier, *Treasurer*.

Hon. Joseph Howes, Montpelier, *Auditor*.

Rev. Chester Wright, Montpelier, *Secretary*.

CONTRIBUTIONS

To the American Colonization Society, from October 20 to November 20, 1835.

Collections from Churches.

Bangor, Maine, Methodist church,	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$10
Baton Rouge, La. collection,	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Bethlehem Pres. ch. Rev. J. M. Dickey,	-	-	-	-	-	-	6 75
Danvers, Mass. Rev. George Cowles's ch.	-	-	-	-	-	-	22 56
Delaware, Rev. Wm. Matchett,	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
Falls River, Mass. a few individuals,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 74
Greensburg, N. Y. Meth. ch.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 85
Hopewell & Union, Chester District, Associate Refd. churches,	-	-	-	-	-	-	59
Hillsdale, N. Y. Meth. ch.	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Indianapolis Pres. ch. Rev. J. W. McKennon,	-	-	-	-	-	-	51
Meth. do. Rev. Lorenzo D. Smith,	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
Baptist do. Rev. J. L. Richmond,	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 25
New Hampshire & Vermont, by Mr. C. C. Beaman,	-	-	-	-	-	-	146 11
Pachogue Meth. ch. by Rev. N. Mead,	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Pisgah Pres. ch. Indiana, Rev. J. M. Dickey,	-	-	-	-	-	-	6 47
Sag Harbour, N. Y., Meth. ch., by Rev. C. W. Carpenter,	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Sand Creek, Indiana, Rev. John S. Weaver,	-	-	-	-	-	-	6 60
Sullivan, N. Y., Meth. ch., by Rev. N. Rice,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 84
Tallmadge, Portage co. Ohio, by Asaph Whittlesey,	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
Watertown, N. Y. Meth. ch. by Rev. Squire Chase,	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
West Hampton, do do Rev. E. Oldrin,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 16
White Plains, do do	-	-	-	-	-	-	20 61
Williamsburg, do do Rev. T. A. Horne,	-	-	-	-	-	-	4 88

Auxiliary Societies.

Indianapolis Aux. Col. Soc.	-	-	-	-	-	-	18 43
Massachusetts, do by Isaac Mansfield, Tr.	-	-	-	-	-	-	195 18
New York, do Moses Allen, Tr.	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
Newburyport Ladies' do.	-	-	-	-	-	-	27 50
Taunton Aux. Society (first remittance),	-	-	-	-	-	-	51
Vermont do	-	-	-	-	-	-	238 50
Virginia do	-	-	-	-	-	-	170

Donations.

Boston, James Butler,	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Fauquier County, Virginia, Miss Mary M. Marshall,	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Gardiner, Maine, Captain Berry,	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Gorham, Maine, Josiah Pierce,	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
Hillsdale, New York, Adonijah Bidwell,	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
New Glasgow, Va. a friend,	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Vassalborough, Maine, Capt. S. Reddington,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Life Member.

Portsmouth, N. H. J. Putnam,	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
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\$1310 43

African Repository.

Chester Court-house, S. C. Wm. Wilson,	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Highwood Post-office, do. John Nesbitt,	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Vassalborough, Me. Capt. S. Reddington,	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Vermont, by D. Baldwin, Tr. Col. Society,	-	-	-	-	-	-	11 50

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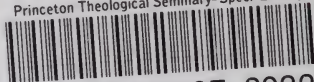
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